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Sources Are Cited for Charge Of Soviet Tie to Arms Freeze

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 12 — The White House today cited Government reports and magazine articles as documentation for President Reagan's contention that "foreign agents" had helped "instigate" the movement in the United States to freeze nuclear arms.

Larry Speakes, the deputy White House press secretary, said the State Department had issued reports on the Soviet infiltration of the peace movement and said further documentation was contained in articles in The Reader's Digest, Commentary and The American Spectator.

President Reagan's remark at his news conference Thursday night came in response to a question as to whether evidence existed of foreign involvement in the movement to freeze the American and Soviet nuclear arsenals. Mr. Reagan said he could not discuss "intelligence matters," but that "plenty of evidence" existed. He said that the "overwhelming majority" of those who supported nuclear freeze proposals were "sincere and well-intentioned."

But he added, "There has been, in the organization of some of the big demonstrations, the one in New York, and so forth, there is no question about foreign agents that were sent to help instigate and help create and keep such a movement going."

Remarks Called 'McCarthyism'

Some critics of the President's remarks accused him of trying to stifle debate on the issue.

"It is disheartening to see an American President returning to the tactics of McCarthyism," said Morton H. Halperin, speaking for the American Civil Liberties Union. "Charges of secret manipulation by foreign agents poison the well of public debate."

"Americans must be free to debate issues on their merits and speak out without being subject to red-baiting," Mr. Halperin asserted.

Leslie Cagan, one of the coordinators of the disarmament rally held in New York June 12, said: "The President is hypocritical when he argues for increased military spending to help 'defend democracy' while at the same time he undermines our democratic right to public protest. The assertion that the American people are being manipulated by 'foreign agents' only serves to divert our energies away from the real issues: the clear and present dangers presented by our nuclear arsenals."

However, Roger S. Young, assistant

director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Congressional and public affairs, said that the President was "accurate" in describing "the Soviet attempts to influence the peace movement." Mr. Young said, "The F.B.I. has received that information and has furnished it for the White House."

"We are not casting aspersions on the peace movement," he said, "but we know the Soviets have targeted it as the place to exert influence, not just in the United States, but in other parts of the world."

The Reader's Digest article cited by the White House as a source of documentation for Mr. Reagan's remark — "The K.G.B.'s Magical War for 'Peace'" — appeared last month and was written by John Barron. In it, Mr. Barron wrote that the "objective" of the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence service, is "to secure military superiority for the Soviet Union by persuading the United States to abandon new weapons systems." The name of its campaign, he says, is "nuclear freeze."

Another article mentioned by the White House, "Perspective on the Peace Movement," by William E. Griffith in last June's Reader's Digest, stated, "The Soviets have fed funds and propaganda materials to some European peace groups and that 'a Soviet-front organization has allied itself to the movement.'"

Other sources listed by the White House included:

"The Peace Movement and the Soviet Union," by Vladimir Bukovsky in Commentary last May; "The Counterfeit Peace Makers: the Atomic Freeze," by Rael Jean Isaac and Erich Isaac, in The American Spectator of June 1982; a State Department report of last July entitled "Soviet Active Measures: An Update," and hearings of February 1980 before the House Subcommittee on Oversight of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which involved testimony from the Central Intelligence Agency on Soviet covert actions abroad.

But some critics of the President were not satisfied. Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, speaking in New Orleans at a meeting of the Association of State Democratic Chairmen, said that as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he would "challenge the President to produce" information supporting his statement "in closed session, if he so chooses."